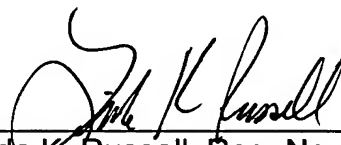


REMARKS

Prior to the initial examination of the present application, Applicants wish to have this amendment entered. While adding no new subject matter to the application, Applicants have revised the Specification to meet standard U.S. formatting requirements and converted the European style of multiple dependent claims to the U.S. format of single dependency.

Given the above amendments to the claims and the comments herein, Applicants respectfully request notice of allowance of all pending claims at the earliest convenience. However, should the Examiner envision further rejection or comment, he is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda K. Russell, Reg. No. 34,918

Date: April 15, 2004

Air Liquide
2700 Post Oak Blvd., 18th Floor
Houston, TX 77056
Phone: 713-624-8956
Fax: 713-624-8950

EXPRESS MAIL NO: EV 388268778 US